United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 15	1
II.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS	16 - 194	4
	A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	16 - 22	4
	B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session and implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	23 - 104	5
	1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session	24	5
	2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	25 - 53	6
	3. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries	54 - 59	13
	4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space	60 - 68	14
	5. Space debris	69 - 85	15
	6. Space transportation systems	86 - 90	17
	7. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries	91 - 94	18
	8. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy	95 - 98	18
	9. Themes fixed for special attention at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	99 - 104	19

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
C.	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session	105 - 140	19
	1. Question of early review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space	106 - 111	20
	2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union	112 - 125	20
	3. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries	126 - 139	22
	4. Working methods and agenda of the Legal Subcommittee	140	24
D.	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	141 - 154	24
E.	Other matters	155 - 185	26
	1. Reports to the Committee	155 - 156	26
	2. Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	157 - 165	26
	3. Working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies	166 - 176	28
	4. Records of the Committee	177 - 182	30
	5. Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	183	31
	6. Observer status	184 - 185	31
F.	Future work	186 - 190	31
G.	Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies	191 - 192	32
H.	Tributes	193 - 194	32

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its thirty-eighth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 12 to 22 June 1995. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chairman: Peter Hohenfellner (Austria)

Vice-Chairman: Dumitru Mazilu (Romania)

Rapporteur: Edgard Telles Ribeiro (Brazil)

The verbatim records of the meetings of the Committee are contained in documents A/AC.105/PV.406-418.

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had held its thirty-second session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 6 to 16 February 1995 under the chairmanship of John H. Carver (Australia). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/605.

3. The Legal Subcommittee had held its thirty-fourth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 27 March to 7 April 1995 under the chairmanship of Václav Mikulka (Czech Republic). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/607. The summary records of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.580-588.

Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. (a) Adoption of the agenda;

   (b) Election of a Vice-Chairman.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. General exchange of views.

4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session.

6. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session.

7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.

9. Other matters.

10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Membership and attendance

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977, 35/16 of 3 November 1980 and 49/33 of 9 December 1994 and decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6. At its 406th and 408th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Ethiopia, Panama, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the League of Arab States to attend the thirty-eighth session of the Committee and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also attended the session.

8. Representatives of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the European Space Agency (ESA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Law Association (ILA) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) also attended the session.

9. A list of representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XXXVIII/INF/1 and Corr.1.

Proceedings

10. Having been informed that its Vice-Chairman, Petru Forna (Romania), had taken up other professional engagements, the Committee, at its 406th meeting, elected Dumitru Mazilu (Romania) as its new Vice-Chairman.

11. At the 406th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, in his opening statement, summarized the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and outlined the work before the Committee. He stressed the need to increase international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to ensure that the benefits of such cooperation were shared by all countries and all peoples (see A/AC.105/PV.406).

12. At the same meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement reviewing the work of the Office during the previous year and the documentation before the Committee (see A/AC.105/PV.406).

13. At its 406th to 409th meetings, from 12 to 14 June 1995, the Committee held a general exchange of views, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States (see A/AC.105/PV.406-409).

14. The representatives of ASE, ESA, IAF, ILA and ITU, as well as the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, also made statements (see A/AC.105/PV.406-410). The Committee also heard a special presentation by ESA on "Space at the service of the environment: ERS-1 and ERS-2".

15. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its 418th meeting, on 22 June 1995, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 4)

16. In accordance with paragraph 38 of General Assembly resolution 49/34 of 9 December 1994, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

17. The Committee was of the view that the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/34, to the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, showed the concern felt by the international community and the need to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into account the needs of developing countries. The Committee, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, had an important role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes. It was the firm belief of the members of the Committee that current efforts should be continued that would strengthen the role of the Committee in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. The Committee had responsibilities relating to the strengthening of the international basis for the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, which could cover, among other matters, further development of international space law, including, as appropriate, the preparation of international agreements governing various practical peaceful applications of space science and technology. Strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space also implied the need for the Committee itself to improve, whenever necessary, the methods and forms of its work.

18. While recognizing the competence of the Conference on Disarmament on questions relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should complement and contribute to the work being done in the Conference and in the First Committee of the General Assembly, considering that the peaceful and non-peaceful uses of outer space were inseparably linked and that the scope of that priority agenda item included such subjects as transparency and confidence-building measures. Those delegations expressed the view that the Committee should therefore be kept informed of the progress made by the Conference on such questions and that an adequate and practical mechanism of coordination should be established between the two bodies on the understanding that a previously agreed calendar would indicate the time and pace at which to move in that direction.

19. Other delegations expressed the view that the Committee had been created 36 years ago to address international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with a clear separation between its role and that of other United Nations forums dealing with disarmament, and that contacts between the Committee and disarmament bodies would be inappropriate. Those delegations expressed the view that the Committee should contribute to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes by strengthening the scientific and technical content of its work, by promoting broader and deeper international cooperation between all countries in outer space activities, especially in the fields of disaster warning and mitigation, and global search-and-rescue activities, and by revitalizing its work and that of its subcommittees.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that recent reports on space and security, including the expert group study on Specific aspects related to the application of confidence-building measures in outer space (A/48/305 and Corr.1) and the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-cold-war era (A/48/221), could contribute to the Committee's further consideration of this agenda item.

21. The view was expressed that an international legal regime dealing with issues related to the dual use of military satellites and non-discriminatory access to the information obtained from such satellites should be elaborated and that such an instrument would promote the peaceful uses of outer space and the maintenance of outer space for peaceful purposes.

22. The view was expressed that the Committee should develop a questionnaire, to be sent to States members of the Committee, in order to allow the Committee to evaluate the existing legal regime for outer space activities and its consistency with the objective of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Such a survey of the views of Member States would facilitate the Committee's work on this agenda item and allow it to develop a practical and specific work programme for its consideration of the matter. Possible questions that could be included in such a questionnaire include:

(a) Is the existing international legal regime for space activities sufficient to ensure peace, law and order in space currently, in the near future and in the long-term?

(b) What new international legal and other measures could be adopted with a view to maintaining space for peaceful purposes and to create more favourable conditions for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space?

(c) Is there a requirement for the modification of existing legal instruments or is there a need for the elaboration of new instruments? If so, in what areas?

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (agenda item 5) and implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (agenda item 7)

23. The Committee considered jointly agenda item 5, entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session", and agenda item 7, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".

1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session

24. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605), covering the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/34.

2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

(a) Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

25. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to its agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) 1/ and had re-established, under the chairmanship of Muhammed Jameel (Pakistan), the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

26. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of reports related to the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its eighth session in 1994 (A/AC.105/571, annex II), which had been endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of its resolution 49/34. The Committee also noted that further studies and reports would be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its ninth session, held in 1995.

27. The Committee noted that the Working Group of the Whole had reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, had concluded that many of them had not been fully implemented and had made a number of recommendations concerning the further implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its ninth session, contained in the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605, annex II). The Committee noted the view of the Working Group that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be given the full support of the United Nations in order to fully implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. That recommendation had been made on the understanding that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would give priority to the full implementation of the Programme within the available resources of its regular budget (A/AC.105/605, annex II, para. 12 (c)).

28. The Committee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened at the thirty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to continue its work.

29. The Committee, while expressing its appreciation to all Governments that had made or had expressed their intention of making contributions for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, took note of the disappointment expressed by representatives of developing countries at the lack of financial resources to implement those recommendations fully.

(b) United Nations Programme on Space Applications

30. At the outset of the deliberations of the Committee on this item, the Expert on Space Applications reviewed the activities carried out and planned under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during the period 1994-1996. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Expert on Space

Applications for the effective manner in which he had implemented the Programme within the limited funds at his disposal.

31. The Committee continued to express its concern over the still limited financial resources available for carrying out the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and appealed to Member States to support the Programme through voluntary contributions. The Committee felt that the limited resources of the United Nations should be focused on the highest-priority activities and noted that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was the priority activity of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

32. The Committee took note of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as set out in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/605, paras. 23-32). The Committee was pleased to note that further progress was being made in the implementation of activities of the Programme planned for 1995.

(i) United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars

33. As regards the United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars for 1995, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the following:

(a) The Government of Spain, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Meeting of Experts on the Development of Education Curricula for the Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, organized in cooperation with the Universidad de Granada and held at Granada, Spain, from 27 February to 3 March 1995;

(b) The Government of Sweden, for co-sponsoring the Fifth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held at Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 1 May to 9 June 1995;

(c) The Government of Gabon, for hosting, and ESA for co-sponsoring, the United Nations/ESA Training Course on the Use of ERS-1 Data for Mapping and Inventory of Natural Resources in Africa, organized for the benefit of African French-speaking countries, and held at Libreville from 15 to 19 May 1995;

(d) To the Government of Zimbabwe, for hosting, and to ESA for co-sponsoring, the United Nations/ESA Workshop on the Applications of Space Techniques to Prevent and Combat Disasters, organized for the benefit of African English-speaking countries and held at Harare from 22 to 26 May 1995;

(e) To the Government of Austria, the Province of Styria, the City of Graz, to ESA and to the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), for co-sponsoring the United Nations/Austria/ESA/CEC Workshop on Space Technology for Improving Life on Earth, to be held at Graz, Austria, from 11 to 14 September 1995;

(f) To the Government of Norway, ESA, IAF and CEC, for co-sponsoring the United Nations/IAF/ESA/CEC Workshop on Space Technology for Health-care and Environmental Monitoring for the Developing World, to be held at Oslo from 29 September to 1 October 1995;

(g) To the Government of Mexico and to ESA, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 30 October to 3 November 1995;

(h) To the Government of Pakistan and to ESA, for co-sponsoring the Fifth United Nations/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science, being organized for the benefit of Member States in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to be held at Karachi, Pakistan, from 6 to 10 November 1995;

(i) To ESA and to the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, for co-sponsoring the United Nations/ESA Training Course for Asia and the Pacific Countries on the Monitoring of Natural Resources, Renewable Energy and Environment using the ERS Satellites, to be held at Frascati, Italy, from 13 to 24 November 1995;

(j) To the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), for co-sponsoring the United Nations/ICTP Workshop on Optics in Space Science and Technology, to be held at Trieste, Italy, from 20 to 25 November 1995;

(k) To the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, for co-sponsoring the United Nations Workshop on the Use of Space Techniques for the Monitoring and Control of the Desert Environment, being organized for the benefit of Member States in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), to be held at Damascus, from 20 to 24 November 1995.

34. The Committee endorsed the programme of United Nations workshops, training courses and seminars proposed for 1996, as outlined by the Expert on Space Applications in his report (A/AC.105/595, para. 66), and recommended those activities for approval by the General Assembly. The Committee noted the plans for the following activities:

(a) The Sixth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators;

(b) The Second United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa;

(c) The Sixth United Nations/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science;

(d) A United Nations/United States International Workshop on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Challenges and Opportunities;

(e) A United Nations/ESA International Training Course on Microwave Remote Sensing;

(f) A United Nations/Spain International Conference on the Development and Design of Experimental Payloads on Small Satellites;

(g) The Second United Nations/ESA Workshop on Radar Remote Sensing Applications;

(h) A United Nations/IAF Symposium on Space Technology in Developing Countries during the Forty-seventh Congress of IAF.

35. The Committee noted with appreciation financial contributions of US$ 25,000 from the Government of Spain, US$ 20,000 from the Government of Austria and US$ 100,000 from ESA in support of the 1995 activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Committee also noted with appreciation that a contribution of US$ 30,000 from the Government of the United States would be used to defray part of the cost of the 1996 Workshop identified in

paragraph 34 (d) above. The Committee noted that other Member States were planning to make contributions. The Committee noted with appreciation the provision, by host countries and other countries, of experts as instructors and speakers in the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Committee also noted the financial and other assistance provided to the Programme by the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ITU, ESA, the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat), the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intersat) and The Planetary Society.

(ii) Long-range fellowships for in-depth training

36. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Brazil and China, as well as to ESA, for offering fellowships through the United Nations in the period 1994-1995 and for renewing their offers of fellowships for the period 1995-1996.

(iii) Technical advisory services

37. The Committee noted that the Programme had provided or would provide the following technical advisory services: to the Government of Ecuador, in studying the feasibility of establishing a multinational enterprise to operate the satellite ground receiving station at Cotopaxi, Ecuador; to the Government of Chile, in following up, as pro tempore secretariat, the recommendations of the Second Space Conference of the Americas; and to the Government of the Republic of Korea, in establishing the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council.

38. The Committee also noted that the Programme was collaborating with ESA on the consideration of a satellite communications network for Africa entitled COPINE, and with ESA and the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services on follow-up activities related to implementation of the recommendations of the 1994 Training Course on ERS-1 Applications, held at Frascati, Italy.

(iv) Regional centres for space science and technology education

39. The Committee welcomed the information on the establishment of the regional centres for space science and technology education as reflected in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/595, paras. 3-15 and annex I) and requested Member States to provide voluntary contributions to support that effort.

40. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Brazil and Mexico had reaffirmed their commitment to establish the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and that discussions were ongoing with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to expedite the process, with particular attention being paid to the role of the United Nations in the Centre. The Committee noted that participation in the governing board of the Centre and in its activities would be open to Member States of the region and that, in due course and upon approval of its governing board, the Centre would grow into a network of nodes in order to fully utilize the resources and potential of the region. The Committee also noted the support of other Latin American countries for the early establishment and operation of the Centre.

41. The Committee noted with satisfaction that progress was also being made in the establishment of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the region of Asia and the Pacific. In that connection, the Committee noted that India had circulated the draft agreement which had been reviewed by the meeting held in January 1995 in Bangalore to all Member States of the region for their review and comments and that arrangements were being made for the signing of that agreement. The Committee noted that participation in the governing board of the Centre and in its activities would be open to Member States of the region and that, in due course and upon approval of its governing board, the Centre would grow into a network of nodes in order to fully utilize the resources and potentials of the region. The Committee welcomed the offer of China to become the next major node of that Centre and noted that negotiations towards that end were ongoing. The Committee also welcomed the offer by the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the favourable results of the evaluation mission conducted by the United Nations, to establish another major node of the Centre.

42. The Committee noted that Morocco and Nigeria had reaffirmed their offers to host the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Africa.

43. The Committee noted that Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece and Romania had offered to host a regional centre for space science and technology education in the region covered by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). In that connection, the Committee noted that Italy had appealed for the establishment of a centre for Central and Eastern European countries, as Italy had concluded scientific and technical cooperation agreements with some of those countries.

44. The Committee expressed its satisfaction that following the endorsement of the General Assembly in its resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990 of the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 1990 session, and after several years of intense work, the process of establishing the regional centres was nearing fruition. Bearing in mind that the centres had evolved as a result of General Assembly resolutions 37/90 of 1982, 45/72 of 1990, 46/45 of 1991, 47/67 of 1992, 48/39 of 1993 and 49/34 of 1994, the Committee recommended that the centres should be established on the basis of affiliation to the United Nations as early as possible. Such affiliation would provide the centres with the necessary recognition and would strengthen their possibilities of attracting donors and of establishing academic relationships with national and international space-related institutions. The Committee further recommended that the United Nations, through the Office for Outer Space Affairs, should continue to provide all necessary support, within the limits of its existing resources, to the centres.

(v) Promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology

45. Regarding the promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was co-sponsoring the following activities:

(a) A workshop entitled "Space technology for improving life on Earth", co-sponsored by ESA, CEC, the Government of Austria, the Province of Styria and the City of Graz, to be held at Graz, Austria, in 1995;

(b) A symposium entitled "Space technology for health-care and environmental monitoring in the developing world", co-sponsored by IAF, ESA and CEC, to be held prior to the 46th IAF Congress at Oslo in 1995;

(c) An international conference on near-Earth objects, in conjunction with the Explorer's Club, The Planetary Society, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Sandia National Laboratories, held at New York in April 1995;

(d) The Third International Seminar on the Global Positioning System in Central Europe, held at Penc, Hungary, in May 1995;

(e) The First Conference on Space Technology and Developing Countries, held at Tehran in May 1995;

(f) Symposia and workshops in conjunction with the COSPAR and ISPRS meetings to be held in 1996.

(c) International space information service

46. With regard to the international space information service, the Committee noted with satisfaction the publication of the sixth volume of "Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: selected papers on remote sensing, satellite communications and space science" (A/AC.105/584), containing papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the 1994 activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications; and "Highlights in space: progress in space science, technology and applications, international cooperation and space law" (A/AC.105/583), based on annual reports prepared by COSPAR and IAF, as well as input from the International Institute of Space Law that was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

47. The Committee noted with satisfaction the steps taken to augment the International Space Information Service through the development of a limited database capability and the creation of a "home page" on the Internet through which a wide range of information regarding the space-related activities of the United Nations, particularly those of the Committee and the Programme on Space Applications, can be accessed. The Committee further noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs is cooperating with the German space agency, DARA, in the preparation of a study on the feasibility of establishing a computer-based international space information service.

(d) Coordination of space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency cooperation

48. With regard to the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency cooperation, the Committee noted the request of the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 49/34, to all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

49. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-second session, had continued to stress the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and coordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the United Nations system (A/AC.105/605, para. 38). The Committee noted with satisfaction that the sixteenth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had been held at Vienna from 3 to 5 October 1994 (A/AC.105/582) and that a report on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system had been submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/587). The Committee also noted with appreciation that the seventeenth

Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities would be held in October 1995 at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

50. The Committee noted with appreciation that representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations had participated in all stages of its work and of that of the Subcommittee. The Committee found that the reports submitted by those bodies helped to enable it and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point for international cooperation in space, especially with respect to the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries.

(e) Regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms

51. Regarding regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms, the Committee noted with satisfaction that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 20, and the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Secretariat had continued to seek to strengthen regional mechanisms of cooperation by organizing regional workshops and training courses as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and by providing technical assistance for regional activities in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as by promoting the establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education.

52. The Committee noted the contributions made by other international organizations towards the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. In particular, the Committee noted that FAO was continuing its activities relating to remote sensing of renewable natural resources and environmental monitoring, including training courses and support of development projects; ITU was continuing its work on the international coordination of space communications and providing technical assistance to developing countries; the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was continuing international cooperative programmes using space technologies, including the World Weather Watch programme and the Tropical Cyclone programme; UNESCO was promoting applications of space technology for archaeology and strengthening cooperation between archaeological projects; UNIDO was continuing its work on spin-off benefits of space technology; Intelsat was further developing its system for international satellite communications and broadcasting and providing assistance to developing countries in using the system; Inmarsat was continuing to develop its satellite communications system for maritime, aeronautical and land-mobile communications; COSPAR, IAF, ILA and ISPRS were continuing to promote international cooperation and exchange of information relating to space activities; and ESA was continuing its programme of international cooperative space activities including training programmes for the benefit of developing countries, support of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and technical assistance programmes.

53. The Committee noted that the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in the Asia-Pacific region, held at Beijing in 1994, had established the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and took note of the Santiago Declaration, 2/ adopted by the Second Space Conference of the Americas, held at Santiago in 1993, and agreed that they constituted important instruments in the promotion of international cooperation in outer space. The Committee noted that the First Conference on Space Technology and Developing Countries had been held at Tehran in May 1995 and agreed that it had served to promote regional cooperation. The Committee also noted the establishment of the Asia-Pacific

Satellite Communications Council (APSCC) to serve as a regional forum to promote exchanges of information and cooperation in the field of satellite communications and broadcasting and agreed that the establishment of that organization would facilitate the expansion of regional cooperation.

3. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

54. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites.

55. The Committee recognized the importance of ongoing international efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the Earth and to promote cooperation through regular meetings between satellite operators, ground-station operators and users. The Committee also noted the value of remote-sensing systems for environmental monitoring and stressed the need for the international community to utilize remote-sensing data in an effort to implement fully the recommendations contained in Agenda 21 3/ of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992.

56. The Committee recognized the example of international cooperation in WMO in the exchange of meteorological data as provided for in resolution 11.4/1 adopted at the XIIth WMO Congress on 21 June 1995. Some delegations called attention to the international cooperation given by some members through traditionally free and open provision of meteorological satellite data and encouraged those countries to continue that practice. Some delegations requested that similar arrangements and modalities should be considered for the distribution of other remote-sensing data. Those delegations expressed concern over the commercialization of remote-sensing activities and proposed that the prices of remote-sensing data products and access fees for data reception should be reduced significantly in order to make them available to all countries at reasonable cost and in a timely manner.

57. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session, recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986, by which the Assembly had adopted the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, had recommended continuing, at its thirty-third session, its discussion on remote-sensing activities conducted in accordance with those Principles (A/AC.105/605, para. 60). The Committee endorsed that recommendation.

58. The Committee heard a special technical presentation by Mr. M. G. Chandrasekhar, Scientific Secretary of the Indian Space Research Organization, entitled "Space for development", which focused on the use of remote-sensing satellites for sustainable development and the use of satellite communications for rural education.

59. The Committee also endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the item should be retained on the agenda of the Subcommittee as a priority item for its thirty-third session (ibid., para. 62).

4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

60. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the item relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

61. The Committee also noted that, in accordance with resolution 49/34, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had reconvened the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space to enable it to resume its work.

62. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly had adopted the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as contained in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992. While noting that the Principles provided that they should be reopened for review and revision by the Committee no later than two years after their adoption, the Committee recalled that, at its last session, it had agreed that the Principles should remain in their current form until amended and that before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision.

63. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted (ibid., para. 65).

64. The Committee agreed that regular discussions on this issue should continue at future sessions and that the Subcommittee and the Working Group on nuclear power sources should continue to receive the widest input on matters affecting the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and any contribution related to improving the scope and application of the Principles. In that connection the view was expressed that the Committee could request the Working Group to focus on gathering information from Member States on ways and means of improving the reach and applicability of the existing Principles in order to further the objectives of the Committee and enhance its discussions.

65. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/34, paragraph 17, had invited Member States to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Member States that had submitted such information.

66. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that Member States should continue to be invited to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources, including studies on the issue of the collision of orbiting space objects with nuclear power sources on board with space debris, and that the Subcommittee should be kept informed of the results of such studies. In that connection the Committee took note of the report prepared by the Russian Federation entitled "Forecasting an emergency re-entry of a spacecraft with a nuclear power source" (A/AC.105/1995/CRP.5).

67. The Committee considered that the participation of representatives of IAEA was a useful contribution to the work of the Committee and that such participation was desirable for future sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

68. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that the item should be retained on the agenda for the thirty-third

ession of the Subcommittee and that the time allocated to the topic in both the Working Group and the Subcommittee should be adjusted as appropriate.

5. Space debris

69. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the agenda item on space debris, and it considered scientific research related to space debris, including relevant studies, mathematical modelling and other analytical work on the characterization of the space debris environment.

70. The Committee expressed its satisfaction at having the subject of space debris as a priority agenda item of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and agreed that consideration of space debris was important and that international cooperation was needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space missions.

71. The Committee agreed that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 32, it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources on board, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris. The Committee noted that the Assembly, in the same paragraph, had called for the continuation of national research on that question for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris, and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris and had considered that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

72. The Committee agreed that there was a need for further research concerning space debris, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris. The Committee also noted the importance of international cooperation in addressing those issues.

73. The Committee agreed that national research on space debris should continue and that Member States should make the results of that research available to all interested parties. In that connection, the Committee took note of the information on national research (A/AC.105/593 and Add.1-4) submitted by Member States pursuant to a request of the Secretary-General.

74. The Committee took note of the informal working paper on space debris submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee by the United Kingdom and the scientific and technical presentations on the subject of space debris made to the Subcommittee by France, India, Poland, the United Kingdom and ESA.

75. The Committee agreed with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that it was important to have a firm scientific and technical basis for future action on the complex attributes of space debris and that the Subcommittee should, inter alia, focus on understanding aspects of research related to space debris, including debris measurement techniques; mathematical modelling of the debris environment; characterization of the space debris environment; and measures to mitigate the risks of space debris, including spacecraft design measures to protect against space debris.

76. The Committee agreed with the Subcommittee that it could be desirable to compile information on various steps taken by space agencies and international organizations such as Intelsat for reducing the growth or damage potential of space debris and to encourage common acceptance by the international community, on a voluntary basis.

77. The Committee noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-second session, had focused its attention on the acquisition and understanding of data on the characteristics of the space debris environment. The Committee further noted the programmes of Member States and organizations on the acquisition and understanding of data on the characteristics of the space debris environment and on measuring, modelling and mitigating the orbital debris environment, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/605, para. 81).

78. The Committee also noted that the Inter-Agency Orbital Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), with the participation of NASA, ESA, the Science and Technology Agency, National Space Development Agency (STA/NASDA) and the Russian Space Agency (RKA), had been formed in 1993 to enable its members to exchange information on space debris activities, facilitate opportunities for cooperation in space debris research, review the progress of ongoing activities and identify debris mitigation options. The view was expressed that working contacts should be established between IADC and the Committee with a view to exchanging information and that a special legal group could be established in IADC to prepare concrete recommendations for the Committee to evaluate.

79. The Committee endorsed the multi-year work plan on space debris adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-second session, as outlined in its report (A/AC.105/605, para. 83), and agreed with the Subcommittee that each session of the Subcommittee should review current operational debris mitigation practices and consider future mitigation methods with regard to cost-effectiveness. The Committee agreed with the Subcommittee that the work plan should be implemented with flexibility and also agreed that, notwithstanding the selection of a specific topic for the next session of the Subcommittee, delegations wishing to address the Subcommittee at that time on other aspects of scientific research related to space debris should be free to do so.

80. The view was expressed that the multi-year work plan should also include space debris in the geostationary orbit, collisions of objects with nuclear power sources with space debris and the re-orbiting of spent satellites from the geostationary orbit into disposal orbits so that in the future those topics could be discussed under the agenda item on space debris. The same delegation further expressed the view that since the matter of the re-orbiting of spent satellites was also being discussed in ITU, it was necessary for the Committee to decide whether to coordinate its work with ITU or to work independently on the matter.

81. Some delegations expressed the view that every user of the geostationary orbit should plan to remove its space object from the orbit after its work was completed and thereby eliminate a source of danger to other users of outer space.

82. Some delegations expressed the view that the topic of space debris should be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. The same delegations also expressed the view that the Legal Subcommittee could begin to define preliminary parameters of a possible legal framework for space debris without prejudging the

results of the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In that connection, the view was expressed that the topic should be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its next session.

83. Other delegations expressed the view that it would be premature to discuss the issue of space debris in the Legal Subcommittee in view of the many technical issues that needed to be discussed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In that connection, some delegations also observed that the aim of the work on the item should be to concentrate on discussing the scientific and technical problems associated with space debris with a view to assimilating knowledge in order to determine whether, and if so what, legal provisions would be required. Those delegations further suggested that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee could put together a handbook that would elaborate state-of-the-art technical options for space debris mitigation and that the handbook could be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations for dissemination to Member States.

84. The view was expressed that the question of space debris was in fact only a part of a more general problem of protection and preservation of the outer space environment and that that problem should be included as one of the leading items on the agenda of a third UNISPACE conference.

85. The Committee agreed that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of space debris, as a priority item, at its next session.

6. Space transportation systems

86. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the item relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

87. The Committee took note of the progress being achieved in the various programmes in operation or being planned by China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and ESA.

88. The Committee took note of developments in low-cost microsatellite technology and applications that could allow more countries to take an active part in space activities.

89. The Committee stressed the importance of international cooperation in space transportation in order to provide all countries with access to the benefits of space science and technology.

90. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that it should continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

7. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

91. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee had continued its consideration of the item relating to the geostationary orbit and space communications.

92. The Committee noted that delegations had reiterated and elaborated on the views concerning the geostationary orbit that had been expressed at earlier sessions and had been reflected in earlier reports of the Committee and its two subcommittees.

93. The Committee expressed its appreciation to ITU for submitting its thirty-fourth annual progress report on telecommunication and the peaceful uses of outer space (A/AC.105/608). Some delegations, in their statements, stressed the important technical scope of the work of ITU, while drawing attention to the competence of the Committee in preparing policy decisions and the legal status of the geostationary orbit.

94. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that it should continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

8. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy

95. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee had continued to consider the items concerning matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy.

96. The Committee noted with satisfaction the wide variety of space activities being undertaken in those areas and the extensive international cooperation in those activities, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/605). The Committee encouraged further cooperation in those areas and, in particular, further efforts to increase the participation of developing countries.

97. The Committee agreed that it could make an important contribution in the area of environment and development by promoting international cooperation in the applications of space technologies for environmental monitoring and sustainable development. In particular, the Committee agreed that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications could play an important role in assisting developing countries in strengthening their capabilities in related space technologies and applications through its education, training and technical advisory activities.

98. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that it should continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

9. Themes fixed for special attention at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

99. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee had considered the theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 1995: "Application of space technology for education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries".

100. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, COSPAR and IAF had conducted a symposium on the theme. The Committee expressed its appreciation to COSPAR and IAF for their generous support of the work of the Subcommittee.

101. The Committee took note of the TV-Obrazkom project, aimed at the establishment of a satellite-based educational system in the Russian Federation. Using converted military satellites, educational programmes which would be distributed even to remote areas of the country would be supported by a highly sophisticated computer network that would gradually be developed for the exchange of various types of information.

102. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the new theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee, in 1996, should be "Utilization of micro- and small satellites for the expansion of low-cost space activities, taking into account the special needs of developing countries". It also endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee, in order to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme.

103. Some delegations drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that it would be timely to examine, at the thirty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 1996, a new topic relating to the problems of development of international cooperation in the prevention and elimination of the consequences of natural disasters and the serious problems induced by human technological activities.

104. The Committee noted with appreciation the summary of the scientific and technical presentations made during the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/606).

C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session (agenda item 6)

105. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session (A/AC.105/607), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/34.

1. Question of early review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space

106. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34 and as reflected in the report of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/607, paras. 24-29), the Subcommittee had considered the item relating to the early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/68.

107. The Committee agreed that the Principles would remain valid until such time as they were amended and that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should consider the need for revision in the light of changing technology before the Legal Subcommittee or the Committee undertook any actual revision.

108. Some delegations expressed the view that any future review and revision of the Principles should have the goal of further strengthening the level of safety provided by the Principles.

109. The Committee noted that the Legal Subcommittee (ibid., para. 26) had agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted and therefore it did not open discussion of that item during the session.

110. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that consideration of the Principles by the Working Group should again be suspended for one year, pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening the Working Group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its session in 1996 to warrant the reconvening of the Working Group by the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee also endorsed the recommendation that the item concerning nuclear power sources should be retained on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee to give delegations an opportunity to discuss that item in the plenary (ibid., para. 29).

111. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that the word "early" should be deleted from the formulation of the item (ibid., para. 28).

2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

112. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Legal Subcommittee, through its Working Group on agenda item 4, under the chairmanship of E. Curia (Argentina), had continued to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

113. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Legal Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (ibid., paras. 30-39 and annex I).

114. The Committee noted that a variety of views had been expressed on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space. Those views were elaborated on and reiterated during the current session of the Committee.

115. Some delegations reiterated the view that a conventionally defined boundary between airspace and outer space was needed and that the Legal Subcommittee should continue to consider the question, with a view to establishing such a boundary. In that regard, the view was expressed that the definition of outer space was necessary in order to clearly establish, as in the law of the sea, which activities would be governed under the sovereignty of States and which under the res communis omnium. Other delegations reiterated the view that the need for such a definition or delimitation had not yet been established and that attempts to establish prematurely a boundary between airspace and outer space might complicate and impede progress in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

116. The Committee noted that the item relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space had been on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee since 1967. At the thirty-first session of the Subcommittee, in 1992, the delegation of the Russian Federation had submitted a working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/L.189) on the questions concerning the legal regime for aerospace objects. At the thirty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 1993, the Chairman of the Working Group on agenda item 4 had circulated an informal paper entitled "Draft questionnaire concerning aerospace objects" (A/AC.105/C.2/1993/CRP.1). At the thirty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 1994, the Chairman of that Working Group had circulated an informal working paper containing an introduction to the draft questionnaire (A/AC.105/573, annex II, para. 14).

117. The Committee also noted that, at the thirty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group on agenda item 4 had finalized the text of a questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects. The Committee agreed with the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/607, para. 38) that the purpose of the questionnaire was to seek the preliminary views of States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on various issues relating to aerospace objects. The Committee also agreed that the replies to the questionnaire could provide a basis for the Legal Subcommittee to decide how it might continue its consideration of agenda item 4. The Committee further agreed with the Subcommittee that Committee Member States should be invited to give their opinions on those matters.

118. The Committee took note of the deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit as contained in the report of the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee noted that an exchange of views had taken place on that subject, particularly on the basis of the ideas formulated in the working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/L.192) submitted by Colombia to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-second session, in 1993 (see A/AC.105/607, annex III/A). The Committee also noted that the exchange of views on the working paper had been productive and that the sponsor of the working paper intended to submit a revised version of that paper, as well as an annex giving an explanation of the ideas raised in the working paper, at the next session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 1996.

119. Some delegations stressed that the geostationary orbit was part of outer space and that its legal status was subject to all provisions of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies 4/ and to the appropriate rules of ITU, which had the status of a treaty. In that regard, the

view was expressed that since outer space had not so far been delimited, it could not be affirmed that the geostationary orbit was a part of outer space.

120. Some delegations reiterated the view that the geostationary orbit, because of its particular characteristics, required a special, sui generis, legal regime to regulate access and utilization by all States, taking into account the needs of developing countries. The view was also expressed that such a legal regime should also take into consideration the particular situation of the equatorial countries.

121. Some delegations reiterated the view that the roles of ITU and of the Legal Subcommittee were complementary and that the Subcommittee could contribute to the establishment of a special legal regime to regulate the use of the geostationary orbit. Others reiterated the view that ITU was the appropriate body to address questions concerning the use of the geostationary orbit and was addressing those questions effectively.

122. Some delegations expressed the view that since matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit were unrelated, those issues should be considered separately by the Legal Subcommittee. Others expressed the view that, owing to the historic links between the two subjects, such separation would not be appropriate.

123. It was observed that ITU at its Radio Communication Assembly in 1993 had adopted a recommendation (A/AC.105/C.1/CRP.4) containing a definition of the geostationary orbit as a torus of thickness 600 kilometres around a mean Earth radius of 42,164 kilometres, extending to 15 degrees north and south latitudes, and that a satellite under such a definition could not be considered to be at a fixed position with regard to a point on the surface of the Earth.

124. The Committee recognized that space debris was a cause for concern in the geostationary orbit as well as in lower orbits. Some delegations expressed the view that the subject of space debris should be added to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. Others were of the view that doing so would be premature as the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had only agreed on a work plan at its 1995 session.

125. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the item at its thirty-fifth session, in 1996.

3. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

126. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Legal Subcommittee, through its Working Group on item 5, under the chairmanship of R. González (Chile), had continued to consider the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

127. The Committee noted the constructive work carried out by the Legal Subcommittee and the Working Group on the item, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/607, paras. 40-45, and annex II).

128. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the useful and constructive discussion based on two working papers (A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.2 and A/AC.105/C.2/L.197) submitted to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session in 1995 (A/AC.105/607, annex III/B and C). Some delegations welcomed, and expressed their satisfaction with, the working papers and indicated their support of the proposals contained therein, and they looked forward to a constructive discussion that could contribute to further progress in the Legal Subcommittee.

129. The Committee noted that, at the current session, Cuba had become a co-sponsor of working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.2.

130. Some delegations expressed the view that it was essential to elaborate legal principles that would ensure that all countries could have access to, and benefit from, outer space activities. They felt that the draft principles on the subject contained in the working papers took into account those concerns, as well as the interests of both developed and developing countries.

131. Some delegations expressed the view that future legal principles relating to the item should address the existing inequalities between the technologically advanced space-faring countries and the developing countries without the infrastructure, resources and technological capability to benefit from space exploration and utilization. They felt that those principles should emphasize the development of indigenous space capabilities, particularly in developing countries, in addition to ensuring access to space resources and technology and the widest possible diffusion of the benefits of space activities among the peoples of the world.

132. Some delegations expressed the view that international cooperation should strive to allocate resources efficiently and that States were free to determine all aspects of their cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. Those delegations also felt that States were free to choose among different modes of cooperation, namely, between governmental or non-governmental cooperation, which could be effected on a global, regional or bilateral level.

133. The view was expressed that international cooperation in space activities should be based on the following concepts: (a) it should be for exclusively peaceful purposes; (b) it should be based on equality, for the benefit of all States and conducted in accordance with international law; (c) it should aim at building up space capabilities; (d) it should promote the exchange of knowledge; (e) it should involve the transfer of space technology and equipment on fair and reasonable terms; (f) it should promote spin-off benefits of space technology; and (g) it should include consideration of reducing damage to the space environment.

134. The view was expressed that the major space-faring States should establish a fund, similar to the one established under the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, to implement development projects using space technology in developing countries.

135. The view was expressed that the United Nations could further enhance peace and development through the theme of outer space benefits because of its

potential in the field of international cooperation. In that regard, that delegation was of the view that the theme of outer space benefits could also enrich the substantive discussion of a possible third UNISPACE conference.

136. The Committee noted that the Chairman of the Working Group on agenda item 5 had submitted an informal working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/1995/CRP.5, as amended) representing a merger based on the texts of working papers A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.2 and A/AC.105/C.2/L.197, with additional language from the Chairman, with the hope that that document would facilitate debate in order to progress on the issue at the next session of the Subcommittee, in 1996. The Committee further noted that no discussion had taken place in the Working Group on the Chairman's informal working paper.

137. The view was expressed that there was a possibility of reaching a compromise between, on the one hand, the justified interests and needs of the developing countries together with their aspirations to obtain access to modern space technologies and, on the other hand, the freedom of States to determine all aspects of their cooperation.

138. Some delegations expressed the view that the merged text prepared by the Chairman would not facilitate discussion in the Working Group on the agenda item.

139. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the item at its thirty-fifth session, in 1996.

4. Working methods and agenda of the Legal Subcommittee

140. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee had conducted informal, open-ended consultations with all members of the Subcommittee on the working methods and agenda of the Subcommittee, including the consideration of possible additional items for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's views and recommendations on the matter are contained in its report (A/AC.105/607, paras. 12 and 46-56). The Committee's recommendations on the matter are contained in paragraphs 166 to 176 of the present report.

D. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (agenda item 8)

141. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 39, the Committee continued its consideration of spin-off benefits of space technology.

142. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology were yielding substantial benefits in many fields and took note of the efforts in many Member States to develop spin-off benefits of space technology and to disseminate information on such activities to interested countries. It noted that spin-offs of space technology were providing, among other things, new techniques for industrial measurement and control, image and data processing, the medical field, computer systems, robotics, power generation, special materials and chemicals, water treatment, public safety, consumer goods, manufacturing and refrigeration.

143. The Committee noted that the importance of spin-off benefits was growing rapidly. It also noted the importance of international cooperation in

developing spin-off benefits of space technology and in ensuring that all countries, in particular developing countries, had access to those benefits. In that regard, the Committee agreed that a process of dialogue and exchange of common experiences could assist all countries in applying space technologies for the solution of common problems.

144. The Committee noted that the conversion of military industries to productive civilian uses would facilitate the transfer and use of space technologies and their spin-off benefits. The Committee also noted that efforts were under way in some Member States to use space technologies for that purpose.

145. The Committee agreed that developing countries, particularly those with space programmes, could make important contributions in that field. It also agreed that developing countries could facilitate consideration of the item by identifying those disciplines in which their most pressing needs could be addressed by space technology.

146. The view was expressed that promotion of basic and advanced research in developing countries could be helpful to medium- and long-term space spin-off benefits.

147. The Committee agreed that there was a need to examine ways of strengthening and enhancing international cooperation in the field of spin-off benefits of space technology by, inter alia, improving the access of all countries to spin-offs, particularly those by which the social and economic needs of developing countries could be addressed.

148. The Committee also agreed that micro-satellite technologies were particularly important in that regard as such technologies could provide substantial benefits to countries at a lower cost than other satellite technologies.

149. The Committee reiterated the recommendation made at its thirty-sixth session, in 1993, 5/ that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should consider devoting at least one of its training courses, seminars or expert meetings each year to the promotion of spin-off benefits from space. The Committee expressed its satisfaction that, pursuant to that recommendation, the Programme was planning to hold, in 1996, the United Nations/United States International Workshop on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Challenges and Opportunities.

150. The Committee noted with interest the proposal of the Ukrainian delegation to utilize the Evpatoria Centre of Deep Science Communication as the basis for a new international centre for space research that could be used by the United Nations Space Applications Programme for its activities as a way of further strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

151. The Committee heard a special technical presentation on "Spin-off benefits" by Mr. M. G. Chandrasekhar, Scientific Secretary of the Indian Space Research Organization.

152. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations could contribute to the development of improved procedures for disseminating spin-off benefits and that particular emphasis should be placed on consideration of ways and means of providing such benefits to developing countries at a reasonable cost.

153. The view was expressed that the title of the Committee agenda item dealing with spin-off benefits should be "Direct and spin-off benefits of space technology and the systematic analysis of the forecasts for space activities".

154. The Committee recommended that it should continue its consideration of the item at its thirty-fifth session, in 1996.

E. Other matters

1. Reports to the Committee

155. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and in that of its subcommittees of representatives of FAO, UNESCO, ITU, WMO, UNIDO, IAEA, ESA, Intelsat, ASE, COSPAR, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), IAF, the International Astronomical Union (IAU), ILA and ISPRS. The Committee expressed its appreciation to those organizations that had submitted reports on their activities and requested interested organizations to continue to keep it informed of their activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

156. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat invite Member States to submit annual reports on their space activities. In addition to information on national and international space programmes, the reports could include information in response to requests from the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as well as information on spin-off benefits of space activities and other topics as requested by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

2. Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

157. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 49/34, in which the Assembly had requested the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to discuss the subject of a third UNISPACE conference at its thirty-second session in 1995 with a view to promoting a prompt recommendation to the General Assembly on the matter. The Committee also noted that the Assembly, in the same resolution, had agreed that such a conference could be convened in the near future and that prior to recommending a date for the conference there should be a consensus recommendation on the agenda, venue and funding of the conference. In that connection, the Committee agreed that a third UNISPACE conference could be held before the turn of the current century. The Committee recalled that the Assembly had agreed that the Subcommittee should also continue its examination of other means of achieving the goals set for such a conference.

158. The Committee noted that, in accordance with its recommendation, the Secretariat had compiled, in time for consideration at the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, a document containing the various ideas regarding the agenda and organization of the third UNISPACE conference (A/AC.105/575/Add.1).

159. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Subcommittee, through its Working Group of the Whole, had carried out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly in resolution 49/34, paragraph 27, and endorsed the views of the Subcommittee on the matter.

160. The Committee further noted the agreement of the Subcommittee that the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/605, annex II) should provide the basis for continued discussions on a recommendation to the General Assembly regarding the convening of a third UNISPACE conference. Accordingly, the Committee discussed matters related to the convening of a third UNISPACE conference.

161. Having considered the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee regarding the possible holding of a third UNISPACE conference, the Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should be requested to continue, at its next session, the work that it had undertaken in 1995 during its thirty-second session. The work of that Subcommittee in 1996 (at the thirty-third session) should take into consideration the progress made during its 1995 session and aim to complete the development and refinement of a framework that would allow an evaluation of proposals by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session, in June 1996.

162. The Committee agreed that, within the framework that would be produced by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 1996, it should be possible to consider the range of proposals under consideration by Member States at the next session of the Committee. The Committee also agreed that in arriving at the final objectives and the actual form of the conference, it was clear that the framework should allow for the consideration of all possibilities of achieving the final objectives. In addition, the framework must allow for the objectives to be considered in order to define a detailed agenda that could be proposed to the Committee and should take into account that the range of financial issues and the scope of the conference were essential matters.

163. The Committee agreed that on the basis of the report the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-third session, the Committee, at its session in 1996, should consider all issues regarding the possible holding of a third UNISPACE conference, including its technical and political objectives, a detailed and sharply focused agenda, funding, timing and organizational aspects. The Committee also agreed that, on the basis of the same report of the Subcommittee, it would also consider whether the objectives of the conference could be achieved by other means with a view to making a final decision on the matter at the thirty-ninth session of the Committee.

164. The Committee agreed that at an appropriate time, following agreement on the holding of a conference, IAF, COSPAR, IAU and ISPRS, as well as other relevant organizations should be asked to prepare background documents. Those organizations could also be invited to organize, in cooperation with the host country, a UNISPACE forum to be held as part of the conference.

165. The Committee noted that the interaction between space applications and the various uses of the "information superhighway" could be reflected in the justification and agenda items of a third UNISPACE conference, as appropriate. The Committee noted that India had presented a working paper entitled "Holding of a third UNISPACE conference - answer to a few key questions" (A/AC.105/1995/CRP.9). The Committee also noted the informal paper entitled "Matters related to the possible holding of a third United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, report by the Secretariat, addendum, technical workshops" (A/AC.105/1995/CRP.7).

3. Working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

166. In accordance with the recommendation made at its thirty-seventh session, in 1994, the Committee established a Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), to examine the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, taking into particular account the results and recommendations of the informal consultations conducted by the Legal Subcommittee as reflected in paragraphs 46 to 56 of its report (A/AC.105/607). The Working Group held two meetings, between 14 and 19 June 1995.

167. The Committee noted that, in accordance with its recommendation and General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 8, the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee had, at its thirty-fourth session in 1995, conducted extensive, open-ended informal consultations with all members of the Subcommittee on the working methods and agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, including the consideration of possible additional items for inclusion in the agenda. The Committee also noted that, in accordance with its recommendation, those consultations had considered the proposals elaborated by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session, in 1994, as contained in the annex to the report of the Committee to the General Assembly, 6/ as well as additional proposals put forward by members of the Subcommittee, and that the results of those consultations were contained in paragraphs 46-56 of the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/607).

168. The Committee noted the flexible measures regarding procedure adopted by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session, in 1995 (ibid., para. 12), and agreed that the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be conducted with maximum flexibility by their respective chairmen, with a view to concluding the sessions of those bodies as early as practicable, without prejudice to their giving full consideration to the items on their agendas.

169. Based on the discussions held in the Working Group, the Committee agreed that:

(a) It would take note of the recommendations of the Legal Subcommittee with regard to its working methods as contained in paragraphs 46 to 56 of its report (A/AC.105/607) on the understanding that, in accordance with established practice, all recommendations of the Subcommittee concerning its working methods, including the possible consideration of new items for its agenda, as reflected in paragraphs 47 and 54, would be subject to the approval of the Committee;

(b) The agenda of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be followed in a flexible manner and the practice of allocating specific agenda items to particular meetings at a session should be ended. To assist in their planning, Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items;

(c) Agenda items should be considered consecutively and be considered closed after the list of speakers on any particular item had been exhausted. The Chairman may propose that items could be suspended to allow additional discussion at future meetings;

(d) Statements made during the general exchange of views should not include information on national space activities and, where appropriate and feasible, should not deal with items that are covered elsewhere on the agenda. Information on national activities should be circulated in written form and

delegations wishing additional information on the national activities of other Member States should request such information during the agenda item "Other matters";

(e) The Committee should seek to focus on its regulatory role with regard to its subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Committee should develop a long-term work plan that would balance the needs to rationalize the use of resources and to maximize the output of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

(g) Technical presentations should be given only after completion of consideration of substantive agenda items or at the end of each meeting;

(h) Every effort should be made to ensure that sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies are not held when meetings of other intergovernmental bodies are being held at the Vienna International Centre;

(i) The Committee and its subsidiary bodies should periodically review the items on their respective agendas to determine the advisability of continued consideration of those items and the likelihood of successful resolution of the debate on them.

170. Some delegations expressed the view that any attempt to impose artificial time-limits on the consideration of an agenda item, particularly on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, was inappropriate and inconsistent with the progressive development of international space law.

171. Some delegations expressed the view that an analysis should be conducted to determine how much time was devoted to each agenda item in the Committee as well as the subcommittees by the respective chairmen of those bodies in consultation with Member States, and that, using that information, consideration should be given to considering the least discussed items on a biennial basis.

172. Some delegations expressed the view that the nominal length of all sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be two weeks and that this should not preclude the early conclusion of a session subject to the completion of consideration of agenda items and agreement on the report on the session. Other delegations remarked that such a provision was not necessary in the light of the current flexible practice of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, in which every effort was made to conclude sessions early. Some of the latter delegations expressed the view that a thorough examination of the proposed items for possible inclusion in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, as described in paragraph 47 of the Subcommittee's report, should be made before a decision was taken on the duration of the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

173. Some delegations expressed the view that the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee could be held consecutively for a period of three weeks with one week of overlap or could be held simultaneously or, alternatively, that the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee could be held consecutively. Other delegations expressed the view that such a structure would, in practice, limit the duration of the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and would not allow sufficient time for delegations to analyse the results of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in preparation for sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

174. Some delegations expressed the view that, absent any need to resolve outstanding issues, the Committee's consideration of the reports of its subsidiary bodies should be pro forma, and therefore the time allocated by the Committee to this matter could be reduced. Other delegations felt that it was important for the Committee to continue its practice of considering the reports of its subsidiary bodies in detail in order for it to be able to draw conclusions and better direct the work of those bodies.

175. The view was expressed that the general exchange of views should be eliminated on an experimental basis at the 1996 sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and that further action by the Committee with regard to the matter should be analysed in the light of the experience of the 1996 sessions of those bodies.

176. On the basis of the discussions held in the Working Group of the Whole, the Committee agreed to adopt the proposals outlined in paragraph 169 above and recommended that the Working Group of the Whole be reconvened at the thirty-ninth session of the Committee in 1996 to continue its discussions on the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

4. Records of the Committee

177. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolutions 48/222 B of 23 December 1993 and 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly had requested the cooperation of those bodies entitled to written records, particularly verbatim records, to review and justify the need for such records.

178. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with its request, the Secretariat had provided it with information on alternatives to verbatim records that might be available to the Committee, as contained in document A/AC.105/L.207.

179. In accordance with the request of the Committee, a Working Group of the Whole was established to discuss, inter alia, the records of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, as described in paragraph 166 above.

180. On the basis of the discussion held in the Working Group of the Whole, the Committee agreed that, beginning with its thirty-ninth session, in 1996, it would be provided with unedited transcripts of its sessions in lieu of verbatim records.

181. The Committee also agreed to request the Legal Subcommittee to review, at its thirty-fifth session, in 1996, its requirement for summary records with a view to determining whether it might be possible to utilize unedited transcripts at its subsequent sessions and to consider under what circumstances there might be a need to revert to summary records should a decision be taken to utilize unedited transcripts.

182. Some delegations expressed the view that they had joined the consensus with regard to the procedure adopted by the Committee as outlined in paragraph 180 above, on the understanding that the Committee would review the need for unedited transcripts at its 1997 session.

5. Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

183. In the light of the retirement of Professor John Carver of Australia as Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Committee noted that Germany had officially nominated as a candidate Professor Dietrich Rex. The Committee expressed its hope that the new chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would be elected by consensus at its thirty-third (1996) session.

6. Observer status

184. The Committee noted that the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Astronomical Union had applied for observer status with the Committee and that the related correspondence and statutes of those non-governmental organizations had been circulated at the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the information of States members of the Committee.

185. The Committee decided to grant permanent observer status to IAA and IAU, on the understanding that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its thirty-third session concerning observer status for non-governmental organizations, 7/ the two organizations would apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

F. Future work

186. The Committee noted the views expressed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in paragraphs 135 to 139 of its report on its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605) and endorsed the recommendations contained in those paragraphs concerning the agenda of the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee.

187. Regarding the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee recommended that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-fifth session, should:

(a) Continue its consideration of the question of the review and possible revision of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Continue, through its Working Group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(c) Continue, through its Working Group, its consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

188. With regard to the item contained in paragraph 187 (a) above, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources should be suspended for one year, pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening the Working Group on that item if, in the opinion of

the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-third session, in 1996, to warrant the reconvening of the Working Group by the Legal Subcommittee.

189. The Committee recalled its recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee, on a permanent basis, should rotate each year the order of consideration of substantive agenda items. The Committee, however, endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee that the order of rotation should be suspended for the 1996 session and that those items should be considered in the same order as in 1995 (items 4, 5 and 3).

190. The Committee took note of the measures that had been adopted initially by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-first session as well as additional measures agreed for the next session of the Subcommittee in order to improve the utilization of conference services. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Legal Subcommittee that a similar organization of work would serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session.

G. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

191. The Committee indicated the following tentative timetable for 1996:

	Date	Site
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	12-23 February	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	18 March-4 April	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	3-14 June	Vienna

192. In accordance with paragraph 168 of section E.3 of the present report, covering methods of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, as well as paragraph 48 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/607), every effort will be made to conclude the session of the Legal Subcommittee as early as practicable, with the goal being to conclude the session in two weeks.

H. Tributes

193. On the occasion of the resignation of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Petru Forna, to take up other professional engagements, the members of the Committee expressed their gratitude for his service to the Committee.

194. On the occasion of the retirement of the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Professor John H. Carver, the members of the Committee expressed their gratitude for his 25 years of service to the Committee and the international community, during which time he made a significant and lasting contribution to the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Notes

1/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20), annex.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I, Vol.I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

4/ General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20), para. 119.

6/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/49/20).

7/ Ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20), para. 137.